THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The sanctioned cost of Bidar-Gulbarga new rail line is Rs. 369.70 crore.

(b) On 29.07.2000.

(c) Rs. 15 crore.

(d) The Final Location Survey has been completed.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Land to the extent of 784 hectares is to be acquired.

(g) Yes, Sir.

Rail Roko Agitation in Balasore

1457. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rail Roko Agitation was staged at Balasore in Orissa by Balasore Nagarika Adhikara Surakashya Sangathan for fulfilment of their various long pending demands; and

(b) if so, what are their demands and how far these have been met and factors hindering progress in implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Their demands were:—(1) Running of Train No. 203 Up/ 204 Dn Dx KGP-BBS 1st passenger train *via* Cuttack instead of Naraj (2) Inclusion of Balasore in East Co. Zone (3) Conversion of Narrow gauge into Broad gauge Rly. line from Rupsa Bangriposi (4) Other development works at Balasore Rly. Station. As far as fulfilment of the demands and factors hindering progress in implementation is concerned, the information is being collected from the Railway and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Newspapers supplied in Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express

1458. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of newspapers being supplied to the passengers

in each Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains on all Railways at present; and

(b) the name of the contractors/suppliers thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) As per policy guidelines, Zonal Railways are free to procure and supply reputed and popular newspapers in English, Hindi and Regional languages duly evaluating the passengers demand in the Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains on their jurisdiction. Zone-wise and train-wise details of newspapers and their suppliers, are not maintained in Board's office.

Delay in settlement of claims of train accidents

1459. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the miserable plight of the next of kin of those killed in train disasters at Khanna in November, 1998, Sirhind in December, 2000 and bomb blast in Dhanbad in March 2002, who are still awaiting settlements of their claims; and

(b) if so, how the claims in respect of those killed in Rajdhani Express on September 9, 2002, have been settled, whereas claimants of earlier accidents from November, 1998 onwards are still to be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The position of claims filed, settled and pending for death of passengers in train disasters at Khanna, Sirhind, Doraha (Dhanbad Express) and Rafiganj is as under:-

Name of Accident	Number of claims filed for death	No. of claims settled for death	No. of claims pending for death
Khanna accident	217	209	8
Sirhind accident	40	33	7
Dhanbad Express at Doraha	4	1	3
Rajdhani Express Accident, Rafiganj	99	69	30